GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5598
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
CONTAMINATED FOOD STUFF
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of diseases are spreading due to pesticides and chemicals used in vegetables, crops and other food items;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) the preventive measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the number of persons died or affected due to these pesticides and chemicals during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 State/Union Territory-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (c) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not done any epidemiological study which indicates that pesticides and chemicals used in vegetables, crops and other food items are giving birth to many diseases. As per the limited studies carried out from time to time to assess the level of pesticides residues in most of the food articles sampled, including edible products like rice, cereals, fruits and vegetables, were found to be within the maximum prescribed tolerance limits.

(d) The Ministry of Agriculture regulates the import, manufacture, sale transport, distribution & use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals under the Insecticides Act 1968. It also provides education and training to the farmers, besides Advocating Integrated Post Management (IPM) Technology on a large scale which encompasses alternate methods for post control, viz Cultural, Mechanical and bio-control methods and need-based judicious application of pesticides. Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1994, maximum tolerance limits for pesticides residuces for 71 pesticides in various food items have been laid down under Rule 65 of PFA Rules 1955.

(f) A Statement outlining information available about the number of persons who died or were affected as a result of use of pesticides are at Annex.I. ... ANNEXURE-I STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO PESTICIDES POISONING (S WISE) DURING LAST THREE YEARS

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	1995-96	96-97	97-98
1	Andeman & Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Andhra Pradesh	02	Nil	Nil
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	N.R	Nil
4	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Bihar	Nil	N.R.	Nil
6	Chandigarh	N.R.	Nil	Nil
7	Dadra & N. Haveli	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
8	Daman & Diu	Nil	N.R.	N.R.
9	Delhi	Nil	N.R.	N.R.
10	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	Gujarat	Nil	2	Nil
12	Haryana	94	94	46
13	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	N.R.	N.R.
14	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	N.R.	Nil
15	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	5
16	Kerala	299	225	257
17	Lakshdweep	Nil	N.R.	N.R.
18	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
19	Maharashtra	200	444	373
20	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
21	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
22	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
23	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
24	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil
25	Pondichery	60	45	26
26	Punjab	178	73	76

27	Rajasthan	93	418	406
28	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
29	Tamil Nadu	78	76	40
30	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
31	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	42
32	West Bengal	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.

Remarks : The figures have been compiled based on the information furnished by the State/UTs either at the Zonal conferences or figures furnished to Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Deptt. of Agri. & Cooperation, Dte. Of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad. N.R. : Not Reported.

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